Upgradation of tourism destinations

†1613. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM-be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement with travel companies for upgradation of tourist destinations has been reached.

(b) if so, the tourist destinations including therein; and

(c) the terms and conditions decided with the travel companies in the said agreement?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The Ministry of Tourism has not signed any agreement with any travel company for upgradation of tourist destinations.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Tourism promotion for southern States

1614. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for tourism promotion for Southern States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. Ministry of Tourism extends Central financial assistance to the State/UT Governments for implementation of tourism projects prioritised in consultation with them.

During the Tenth Five Year Plan, Ministry of Tourism has so far sanctioned Rs. 428.23 crore for development and promotion of tourism in the Southern States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi